Throughout my elementary, middle, and high school careers, I have taken many standardized tests. Standardized tests provide a status report of every student in the American school system, many teachers, politicians, and heads of government have mixed opinions on whether the tests are effective or not. Now, I strongly believe that American school systems can benefit in many ways from the tests, such as figuring out which areas of learning they need to improve on to better prepare their students. I am very aware that standardized tests are often looked down upon, but the overall aid that it provides is unmatched by any other style or way to gain a general perspective of the American learning status.

Standardized tests have been a part of our learning community for decades, and based on the solidity of the alternatives ways, they will continue to lead. The government must be able to see results, and standardized tests are the key source, then, the government will be able to make changes or improvements on the American school system. The standardized tests provide geographic learning information, which is essential in order to build a strong and recognizable school system. As seen through many polls, the United States is ranked very low when it comes to mathematics, and also reading and writing. These results could have never been calculated without the use of standardized tests, and the United States would never be able to see how they rank against the rest of the world. This provides the standard or the goal the United States as to achieve in order to stay competitive in this ever-changing world.

Throughout the past decades, the United States as always stood on a mountain when it comes to education and results produced, but now with the upcoming of many smart and powerful countries, that mountain has turned into a hill. The standard of learning, as said before, comes from the results of standardized testing, so, the United States would have never been able to see that they are being surpassed by other countries in education. The improvements and revisions can be seen through every day society, such as the No Child Left Behind Act, which was passed by the 42nd President George W. Bush. As seen through all sorts of media, this Act had its advantages and disadvantages, but it is a start. There are many alternative ways to standardized testing floating around the United States leaning community, but there are many downfalls to the systems. For example, the portfolio based system is one of the most prominent systems known to this day, the system consists of a portfolio of all of the major work the student has completed to give a over-all status report of his or her accomplishments throughout their schooling career. Since every school curriculum is different from district to district, the portfolio based alternative would fail to give a fair analysis of every student. As seen through the text of *School*  by Kyoko Mori, the Japanese schools are designed to be similar in every way shape and form. From district to district, every school district is the same, so it would be fair to drop standardized testing there and implement the portfolio based system, because it would give a fair status report of every student from every district. But, I live in American, where every school district is the same, so the portfolio based system is intangible, and standardized testing rules the leaning community.

There are many downfalls to the standardized testing system of America, such as the tests can sometimes be biased and unfair, students in failing districts will be punished, it lessens the flexibility of teachers, and finally, learning material for tests means other material receives less emphasis.